

## Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07  
L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15  
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R 241451Z MAR 77  
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TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5390  
INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN  
AMEMBASSY CAIRO  
AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS  
AMCONSUL JERUSALEM

UNCLAS TEL AVIV 2086

E.O. 11652: N/A  
TAGS: PFOR, US, IS  
SUBJECT: PRESS REPORTS BRZEZINSKI-DINITZ RIFT

REF: TEL AVIV 2061

1. THE PRESS CONTINUES TO FEATURE STORIES ON THE  
PRESIDENT'S ALLEGED VIEWS ON THE SHAPE OF ISRAEL'S FINAL  
BORDERS. ALONGSIDE DENIALS BY WHITE HOUSE SPOKESMAN  
JODY POWELL AND NSC ASSISTANT JERROLD SCHECTER CONCERNING  
REPORTED STATEMENTS BY NSC ADVISOR BRZEZINSKI, MOST  
PAPERS REPORT A RIFT DEVELOPING BETWEEN BRZEZINSKI AND  
AMBASSADOR DINITZ OVER ALLEGED "LEAKS" AND "DISTORTIONS."  
FOLLOWING IS TEXT OF EXCERPTS FROM TODAY'S MAARIV  
ARTICLE (DISSENCHIK):

2. BEGIN TEXT: FOLLOWING BRZEZINSKI-  
DINITZ "SHORT CIRCUIT," ISRAELI DIPLOMAT IN U.S. SAYS:  
WE HAVE A "TERRIBLE AVALANCHE ON OUR HANDS"...DOUBTFUL  
WHETHER HARM CAN BE UNDONE. THE ABOVE STATEMENTS WERE  
MADE BY AN ISRAELI DIPLOMAT IN WASHINGTON. WHITE HOUSE  
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SOURCES SAY: "GREAT COMMOTION WAS CAUSED HERE YESTERDAY  
(TUESDAY)." BOTH ISRAELIS AND AMERICANS WERE REFERRING  
TO THE CONSEQUENCES OF LEAKAGE OF A CONVERSATION  
BETWEEN AMBASSADOR DINITZ LAST THURSDAY AND ZBIGNIEW  
BRZEZINSKI. FOLLOWING THIS LEAKAGE, THE CONTENTS OF WHICH  
WERE CATEGORICALLY DENIED BY THE WHITE HOUSE AS WELL AS BY  
THE STATE DEPARTMENT, RELATIONS BETWEEN ISRAEL'S

AMBASSADOR TO THE U.S. AND MR. BRZEZINSKI ARE NOW DESCRIBED AS "VERY TENSE." ONE WHITE HOUSE SOURCE NOTED: "WHEN THEY NEXT MEET THEY WILL NOT BE EXCHANGING COMPLIMENTS, AND AN OFFICIAL NOTE-TAKER WILL BE PRESENT." THE WHITE HOUSE, HOWEVER, DOES NOT SEEM PARTICULARLY WORRIED OVER THE LEAK. IT IS MORE CONCERNED WITH WHAT OFFICIALS TERMED "A CRASS DISTORTION" OF WHAT HAD IN FACT BEEN SAID AT THE ABOVE TALKS. WHITE HOUSE SPOKESMAN JODY POWELL STATED YESTERDAY THAT THE TWO REPORTS, PUBLISHED BY CBS AND AP RESPECTIVELY, WERE "FABRICATIONS." BRZEZINSKI DECLARED THROUGH A SPOKESMAN THAT "THE PARTS REFERRING TO STATEMENTS ALLEGEDLY MADE BY ME ARE FICTITIOUS. THE REST IS GUESSWORK. I MADE NO DECLARATIONS DEFINING CERTAIN BORDERS, AND THE OPINIONS ATTRIBUTED TO ME ARE FABRICATED."

3. A WHITE HOUSE SOURCE TOLD MAARIV'S REPORTER, "THE ONLY APPROPRIATE WAY TO DESCRIBE THE PRESENT SITUATION IS BY USING A MOST UNDIPLOMATIC ANALOGY: WHEN THE STINK BEGINS TO SPREAD..."

4. THE COMMOTION BROKE OUT DURING A ROUTINE BRIEFING OF A GROUP OF ISRAELI JOURNALISTS BY DIPLOMATIC SOURCES ON THE MANNER IN WHICH ISRAEL IS INTERPRETING THE PRESIDENT'S MOST RECENT STATEMENTS, AS WELL AS OTHER DECLARATIONS MADE BY CERTAIN DIPLOMATS WITH REGARD TO THE MIDDLE EAST. DURING THE BRIEFING--WHOSE RULES STIPULATE THAT NEITHER THE SOURCE, NOR THE PEOPLE QUOTED UNCLASSIFIED

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BY THE SOURCE ARE IDENTIFIED--IT WAS STATED, INTER ALIA, THAT BRZEZINSKI HAD TOLD DINITZ THAT "MINOR ADJUSTMENTS" IN SINAI COULD AMOUNT TO FROM 20 TO 50 KMS IT WAS AGREED THAT BRZEZINSKI WOULD NOT BE MENTIONED BY NAME, BUT DESIGNATED AS "A SENIOR OFFICIAL." BEFORE MOST OF THE CORRESPONDENTS HAD TAKEN DOWN THE STORY, THE ISRAEL RADIO CORRESPONDENT, ELI NISSAN, HAD VIOLATED THE RULE AND BROADCAST BRZEZINSKI'S NAME. THIS WAS SUFFICIENT TO RAISE AN INDIGNANT DENIAL FROM THE WHITE HOUSE, WHICH WAS ALREADY PUBLISHED IN YESTERDAY'S EVENING PAPER. ANOTHER, AS YET UNIDENTIFIED, ISRAELI JOURNALIST REPORTED THE CONTENTS OF THE BRIEFING TO THE CBS AND AP DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENTS. UNFORTUNATELY, THE STORY WAS REPORTED SOMEWHAT OUT OF CONTEXT AND THUS DISTORTED, WITH CERTAIN STATEMENTS BEING ATTRIBUTED TO BRZEZINSKI WHEN THEY HAD NOT IN FACT BEEN ATTRIBUTED TO HIM BY THE DIPLOMATIC SOURCES AT THE BRIEFING. AS A RESULT, CBS BROADCAST THE FOLLOWING: "IN PRIVATE TALKS WITH FOREIGN DIPLOMATS SENIOR ADMINISTRATION OFFICIALS ADDED VARIOUS DETAILS,

STILL UNDER DISPUTE, WITH REGARD TO PRESIDENT CARTER'S  
MIDDLE EAST POLICY, WHICH IS ITSELF STILL IN DISPUTE.  
JODY POWELL STATED THAT HE KNEW OF THE BROADCASTS, WHICH  
HE CALLED "GROUNDLESS." THE STATE DEPARTMENT SPOKESMAN,  
FRED BROWN, USED SIMILAR LANGUAGE IN DENYING THE REPORTS.

5. WHITE HOUSE OFFICIALS SAID THAT THE TALK BETWEEN  
DINITZ AND BRZEZINSKI DEALT WITH CLARIFICATIONS OF THE  
PRESIDENT'S DECLARATIONS ON THE MIDDLE EAST, AND WAS A  
GENERAL CONVERSATION ON MIDDLE EAST SUBJECTS. U.S.  
OFFICIALS ON WEDNESDAY ACCUSED ISRAEL OF ATTEMPTING TO  
EXTORT CARTER'S REACTION BY SPREADING FALSEHOODS.  
POSSIBLY SOME OF THE ADMINISTRATION'S DISPLEASURE WILL  
FIND EXPRESSION AT TODAY'S PRESS CONFERENCE WITH THE  
PRESIDENT. IT IS, HOWEVER, JUST AS LIKELY THAT, AS IS  
CARTER'S WONT, A QUESTION PUT TO HIM ON MIDDLE EAST  
AFFAIRS WILL ELICIT A NEW DECLARATION BY THE U.S.  
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PRESIDENT AND THUS INCREASE THE CONFUSION WHICH HAS  
BECOME AN ALMOST EVERYDAY OCCURRENCE IN U.S. FOREIGN  
POLICY. END TEXT  
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## Message Attributes

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**Review Markings:**  
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